

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2543 without my signature.

I share the author's concern about the health workforce needs of our state. However, the provisions of this bill place an additional licensing fee on an entire profession to provide specialized loan assistance grants beyond the \$10 surcharge they already pay for the Mental Health Service Provider Education Program. Unfortunately, this bill is double-assessing the same profession for similar programs.

I would encourage the stakeholders to consider the loan repayment funds they currently receive through licensure assessments and discuss how those funds can be redirected to address their policy goals.

For these reasons, I am unable to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger